Raising standard of Scientific Research

1105. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 13th November, 1999 under the caption Indian Scientific Research Ragging which paints a despondent picture about the research activities in the industrial, scientific and educational establishments in our country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps proposed to step up the standard of research and scientific stuthes in various universities and centres of advance learning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have always placed high emphasis on constantly improving standards of research and development actively. Some reccent initiatives relating to young scientist and science education are: the Kishore Vaigyanik ProtsahanYojana, the Swarnajayanti Fellowships, biotechnology Fellowships and the proposed Fund for Improvement of Infrastructure in Universities and other higher educational institutions.

Centre for Research and Development of Information Products

1106. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has initiated steps to set up the Centre for Research and Development of Information Products;

(b) if so, the number of officials, Scientific, Technical and Administrative, associated for the above project during April, 1997 to October, 1999, year-wise;

(c) the grant sanctioned and that utilised for the above during the period 1997-2000, year-wise; and

(d) if so, the details of information products released or in the process to release till October, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes sir, a Unit for Researcch & Development of Information products at Pune has been set up by Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).

(b) Only two persons were associated with the projectduring the period referred to.

(c) (Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Grant Sanctioned	Grant Utilized
1997-1998	30,000	30,000
1998-1999	120,000	120,000
1999-2000	124,000	16,725

(d) The Unit is in its formative state and the First Volume of the series of CDROM on Medicinal Plants will be released in January, 2000.

Tours of Directors and Director-General, CSIR

1107. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directors of various CSIR laboratories and Director-General of CSIR made a number of National and International tours between 1997-99 for official reasons; and

(b) if so, the details of their tour programmes, the purpose of the visits and the amount spent for travelling expenses etc. during the same period, with year-wise break-up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Grant/Aid by IDRC, Canada

1108. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada has been providing grant/aid to projects/schemes on various National Laboratories under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) during the period 1993-98; and

(b) if sp, the title of theprojecct, project leader, duration of the project, total grant, grant already allotted and the Regional Centre of IDRC through which the grant is sanctioned, alongwith the name of the National Laboratories, for the period 1993-98, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes sir.

(b) As per enclosed statement.